

## 8 The stars, published 1912

**Montague Phillips** (1885-1969) was an English composer who studied and later taught for many years at the Royal Academy of Music. He initially made his name writing popular ballads for his wife, soprano Clara Butterworth.

Sung in English; translator unknown, possibly the composer.

Other settings of this poem: 10

Es stehen unbeweglich  
Die Sterne in der Höh'  
Viel tausend Jahr', und schauen  
Sich an mit Liebesweh.

Sie sprechen eine Sprache,  
Die ist so reich, so schön;  
Doch keiner der Philologen  
Kann diese Sprache verstehn.

Ich aber hab sie gelernet,  
Und ich vergesse sie nicht;  
Mir diene als Grammatik  
Der Herzallerliebsten Gesicht.

For a thousand years the stars  
Stay quiet in the skies,  
And ever at each other gaze  
With wistful loving eyes.

The words they speak together  
Are beautiful and grand,  
Yet not the wisest scholar  
Their speech may understand.

But I have read and learnt it,  
And know it evermore,  
The face of my beloved  
Reveal'd to me their lore.